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Patty Sands, Editor

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PSCnews

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
100 Years of Service

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Diverse Panel Presents Ethics Training

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina is required under Act 175 of 2004 to annually conduct ethics training for its commissioners and staff. At this year's training events, the diversity of the presenters allowed the attendees to receive valuable instruction on how to perform their job duties while operating within the parameters that govern the Commission. The commissioners and staff operate under the Code of Judicial Conduct, the State Ethics Laws, and Title 58 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Senator Brad Hutto of Orangeburg; Cathy Hazelwood, General Counsel of the State Ethics Commission; and Dean Robert Wilcox from the University of South Carolina School of Law detailed the ethics laws applicable to the Commission. The Honorable



Senator Brad Hutto instructs commissioners and staff on the Code of Judicial Conduct.

able Thomas W. Cooper, Jr., a circuit court judge, will address the commissioners and staff in May.

Gaining from the diverse backgrounds of the speakers, commissioners and staff will be better armed to navigate the ethics arena.

NEI Update on Japanese Accident

Paul Genoa, Director of Policy at the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), recently gave the Commission an update on the accident at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant following the March 11, 2011, devastating earthquake and tsunami. The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Department of Energy, and the military have been providing assistance and support to the

Japanese during this crisis. [NEI](http://www.nei.org) has been updating its website with the latest credible information and will continue to do so on a daily basis.



Commissioner David Wright (l) and Paul Genoa (r) of the NEI

From the Chair...*Butch Howard*



A Letter to the Staff:

The Commission is gearing up for what looks like a very busy summer. With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the Commission for the great job you are doing to fulfill our

mission.

On a daily basis, the biggest thing I notice is the spirit of teamwork. It is evident in every department and is what makes the Commission so great.

Teamwork is the essential element in getting things done. From the cheerful voice that answers the phone, to the processing of the application, to the writing of the final order, teamwork is involved.

The Clerk's Office coordinates with everyone to ensure that all the timelines are met and there are no conflicts with other schedules. The staff attorneys and advisors work together with the commissioners

to analyze and examine the issues of each case from a legal and technical standpoint. After the hearing, the Legal Department works in concert to draft an order that, if called upon, will pass the scrutiny of the appellate courts. At times, a lot of midnight oil is burned to get these orders just right. Without teamwork, these tasks would not be completed in such an efficient manner.

The extra things the staff members do create a cohesive Commission. They sponsor activities like special lunches, charity drives, and wellness seminars, just to name a few. All these activities are uplifting and promote teamwork, and I appreciate everything that you do.

One last thing, please take time to honor those who have gone the extra mile by participating in the "Shout Out" program—you deserve the recognition.

You are all very special to me,
Butch

Announcements & Appointments

⌘ Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski announced the appointment of Commissioner **Randy Mitchell** to fill the state commission seat on the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors.



USAC, a private, non-profit corporation, is responsible for operating the federal Universal Service Fund. The fund provides every state and territory in the United States with access to affordable telecommunications services. The USAC Board of Directors oversees the administration of the fund.

Commissioner Mitchell is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). NARUC President Tony Clark said of the appointment, "The board provides crucial oversight of how USAC administers the Universal Service Fund. Commissioner Mitchell brings strong qualifications and will work hard for the board, the federal regulators, and the citizens who benefit from this service."

⌘ Congratulations to Commissioner **Nikiya**

"Nikki" Hall on her appointment to NARUC's Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment.



Recognizing our country's dependency on electricity and gas, the Committee's work focuses on energy efficiency, environmental protection, and renewable and distributed resources issues. The Committee also focuses on consumer protection, low-income weatherization and assistance, and public interest research and development.

Commissioner Hall has also been appointed to the NARUC Subcommittee on Utility Market Access. The goal of the subcommittee is to encourage competition for utility contracts and lower utility costs for consumers through supplier diversity.

⌘ Commissioner **Swain E. Whitfield** was recently appointed to the NARUC Committee on Gas. As a member, he will assist the chairman in fostering awareness and understanding of issues (continued on Page 4)



ARRA Educational Workshops

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC) is the recipient of a federal grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This grant assists the Commission, the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), and the State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee (PURC) in addressing electricity-related topics such as energy efficiency and demand side management, renewable energy, smart grid, electric vehicles, carbon storage, and transmission. In addition to providing staff, the grant can be used to fund training opportunities on the ARRA topics.

The PSC, in conjunction with the ORS and PURC, hosted two training sessions recently. Janice Beecher, Director of the Institute of Public Utilities at Michigan State University, conducted a



Jan Beecher discusses electricity utility regulation.

one-day seminar on the basics of utility regulation. The seminar covered the basics of ratemaking, utility accounting, and utility rate design. It included lecture and interactive portions of the program to facilitate discussion on regulatory topics.

The second workshop, which was open to the public, featured Scott Hempling, Executive Director of the National Regulatory Research Institute. Mr. Hempling presented a two-day workshop entitled "Electricity's Current Challenges: Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, 'Modern' IRP, and Transmission." Members from the Georgia and North Carolina Utilities Commissions joined the South Carolina PSC, ORS, and PURC. Also in attendance were representatives from the state's investor-owned electric utilities, the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Hawaii Electric Company, and the Department of Energy. The legal community and several environmental advocacy groups participated in the workshop as well.

With the diverse group of attendees, Mr. Hempling was able to engage the attendees in discussions that promoted differing views. Some of the topics that generated thought-provoking discussions concerned proposed federal energy legislation, FERC's transmission initiatives, the integration of variable power supplies, and state policy for renewable energy.



Scott Hempling engaging audience in discussion of energy topic.

Both of these workshops were timely, and the agenda and format beneficial to all.

Consumer Information on Energy Efficiency

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina wants to promote, educate, and encourage consumers to practice energy efficiency. Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; Piedmont Natural Gas Company; Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc.; and South Carolina Electric & Gas Company have approved programs on file with the Commission. These programs vary widely from company to company, but all of the programs provide incentives for the replacement of equipment (HVAC systems, refrigerators, water heaters, lighting, etc.) with ENERGY STAR® qualified products. In addition, most of the programs include a low income



residential customer component to address reductions to energy usage through energy efficiency means, since energy costs are typically a large percentage of the household budget for low income customers.

Each company's program is unique, and there are different incentives for residential and non-residential customers. Details for each program may be found on the Commission's website (www.psc.sc.gov).

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affecting the transportation, distribution, and sale of natural gas safely, efficiently, and economically.

Also, Commissioner Whitfield was appointed to the newly established Pipeline Safety Task Force, a formal working group to coordinate and direct NARUC's pipeline safety advocacy. The Pipeline Safety Task Force will analyze pipeline safety issues, discuss best practices, and lead the Association's advocacy before Congress and the federal agencies. With the recent pipeline accidents, Commissioner Whitfield said of his appointments, "I look forward to serving NARUC and the State of South Carolina on the Pipeline Safety Task Force. Working with federal agencies and other stakeholders, we hope to prevent future pipeline accidents."

Also just announced, Commissioner Whitfield will join Commissioner Randy Mitchell and Committee Chair Lib Fleming on the NARUC Committee on Critical Infrastructure.

Reference Information

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State of South Carolina website

www.sc.gov

Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)

www.dhec.sc.gov

SC Energy Office

www.energy.sc.gov